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**SB 78**

February 1, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Finance Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** Senate Bill 78 – Health Occupations - Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses - Temporary Licensure, Certification, Registration, and Permitting

**POSITION: Support with Amendment**

Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports with amendment** SB 0078.

SB 0078 seeks to require health occupations boards to issue an expedited temporary license, certificate, registration, or permit to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meet requirements, require health occupations board to include a check-off box prominently on each license, certification, registration, permit form; and require the Maryland Department of Health to publish prominently information on its website. Expediated pathways for licenses, certificates, registrations or permits to members of the military, military spouses or veterans would help alleviate critical healthcare workforce vacancies created by the pandemic.

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) respectfully request the below amendments:

- Page 4, number 3: Add a requirement to meet Maryland standards
- Page 5, lines 23-23: Allow 30 business days, rather than 15 business days, which would allow boards with ample time to review completed applications
- An amendment that allows for a period of 12 months for health occupations boards to review their current processes for service members, veterans, or military spouses and if no expediated process exists, allow these boards to establish expedited pathways for service members, veterans, or military spouses. Once established, requiring health boards to publish these pathways to temporary licenses on their websites

BCHD would be happy to work on amendments that would preserve the intent of this bill and still maintain critical licensure requirements to ensure the safety of Maryland residents

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendment** report on SB 64.